

Revised Edition Two

# *MANHIYYĀT* (PROHIBITIONS IN ISLAM)

by

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Title: *MANHIYYĀT* — PROHIBITIONS IN ISLAM

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English Edition 1 (1999)

English Edition 2 (2004)

Layout: IIPH, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Filming & Cover Designing: Samo Press Group

International Islamic Publishing House

© International Islamic Publishing House, 2004

King Fahd National Library Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Al-Munajjid, Muhammad ibn Ṣālīḥ

Drawing attention to many Islamic manhiyyat / Muhammad  
ibn Ṣālīḥ al-Munajjid, - Riyadh, 2004

...p ; 20 cm

1- Islamic fiqh I-Title

ISBN: 9960-672-20-4

244 dc 2903/21

Legal Deposit no. 2903/21

ISBN Soft Cover : 9960-672-20-4

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## List of Contents

PUBLISHER'S NOTE	07
INTRODUCTION	09
Prohibitions mentioned in the Qur'an and Sunnah	11
'Aqīdah (Basic tenets of faith)	12
Ṭahārah (Cleanliness and purity)	16
Aṣ-Ṣalāh (Prayer)	17
Mosque	21
Funerals	22
Fasting	23
Ḥajj (Pilgrimage) and Aḍḥā (Sacrifice)	24
Trading and Earning	26
Marriage	28
Matters pertaining to women	32
Matters of meat and food	33
Clothing and adornment	35
Diseases of the tongue	37
Etiquette of eating and drinking	39
Etiquette of sleeping	40
Miscellaneous	41

GLOSSARY	51
TRANSLITERATION CHART	55
DIRECTORY OF SYMBOLS	58

## Publisher's Note

The Holy Qur'an consists of three major parts: the first is *Tawhīd* (Oneness of God), the second gives lessons for admonition, and the third major part deals with the "Dos" and "Don'ts" in Islam. The last part is the easiest and no Muslim will be forgiven if he/she does not make an effort to learn. The prohibitions of the Qur'an and Sunnah are too many for one small book to sum up. In general, what the Qur'an and Sunnah order us to do are all virtues and what they prohibit are all vicious deeds.

In this book, the author has tackled the prohibitions which many Muslims may not know. The same author had previously dealt with the *Muḥarramāt* (forbidden matters) that some Muslims take too lightly. This book, when read with the previous one, can give a Muslim the basic knowledge of the prohibitions one should consciously learn and avoid in daily life.

I pray to Allah (ﷻ) to grant the readers the best benefit of this book and to reward the author and all of us with Paradise.

Muhammad 'Abdul-Muḥsin Al Tuwajjri  
International Islamic Publishing House  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1425 AH / 2004 CE



## Introduction

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, and His peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad and his family members and Companions.

We previously published a brief work entitled “*Muḥarramāt*: Prohibitions that are taken too lightly,” which discussed some of the various offences against Sharī‘ah, which may involve *Shirk* (polytheism) and major and minor sins. Evidences for such prohibited things were quoted from the Qur’an and Sunnah, and real-life situations were described in order to explain clearly the different ways in which people may fall into committing sin.

There are many things that have been prohibited in the Qur’an and Sunnah, and it is very important for the Muslim to know about them so that he can keep away from them and thus avoid earning the wrath and anger of Allah (ﷻ) ‘The Exalted,’ or bringing about his own doom in this world and the next. So, I thought of compiling this list of prohibited things, in accordance with the hadith of the Prophet (ﷺ) (Blessings and peace be upon him):

“Religion is sincere advice (*ad-Dīn an-Naṣīḥah*)”,

— and in the hope that it will be of benefit to both myself and my Muslim brothers. So, I have compiled what information I could from the Qur'an and from the hadiths classed as *Ṣaḥīḥ* by the scholars specialized in this field (relying mostly on the reports classed as *Ṣaḥīḥ* by al-'Allāmah Muhammad Nāṣirud-Dīn al-Albānī in his books).

Topics are grouped according to the classifications used in the books of *Fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence). I have not quoted every hadith in full, but only the relevant parts. In most cases, the reports include words which clearly indicate prohibition (such as "Do not..."), and I have explained the reason for the prohibition in some cases. I ask Allah to help us to avoid sin and wrongdoing wherever they exist, visible or hidden, and to accept our repentance. Praise be to Allah (ﷻ), the Lord of the worlds.

## Prohibitions mentioned in the Qur'an and Sunnah

Allah (ﷻ) and His Messenger have prohibited many things, avoiding of which brings great benefits and protects us against many kinds of evil and harm. These prohibitions include both things which are *ḥarām* (forbidden) and things which are *makrūh* (disliked, discouraged). The Muslim should avoid these things, because the Prophet (ﷺ) told us:

"What I have forbidden you, avoid it."

The practising Muslim is keen to avoid all things that have been prohibited, whether they are classed as *ḥarām* or *makrūh*. He does not act like those of weak faith who do not care if they do things that are *makrūh*, even though taking such matters lightly leads to committing *ḥarām* deeds, as the *makrūh* deeds effectively form a barrier around *ḥarām* actions. Moreover, the person who avoids *makrūh* deeds will be rewarded for this, if he avoids them for the sake of Allah (ﷻ). On this basis, we make no distinction here between *makrūh* and *ḥarām*, because making this distinction requires a great deal of knowledge, but most of what follows describes actions that are *ḥarām* rather than *makrūh*. Here now follows a list of things that are prohibited in Islam.



## 'Aqidah (Basic tenets of faith)

*Shirk* (polytheism) in general, whether major, minor or hidden is forbidden. It is forbidden:

— to go to fortune-tellers and soothsayers and believe in what they say; or to offer a sacrifice to anything other than Allah (ﷻ); or to speak about Allah, He be Glorified, and His Messenger (ﷺ), without knowledge.

— to wear or hang up amulets, including the kind of pearls which are used to ward off the evil eye.

— to perform any kind of *sihr* (witchcraft) used to cause a split between two people or to bring two people together.

— to engage in fortune-telling and soothsaying.

— to believe that the stars and planets have any effect on events and people's lives (astrology).

— to believe that things may bring benefits while Allah (ﷻ) has not created them so.

— to think about the nature of Allah. One should instead think about His creation. No Muslim should die thinking in any way of Allah (ﷻ) except positively.

— to state that any believer is going to go to Hell.

— to call any Muslim a *kāfir* (disbeliever) except with a sound proof.

— to ask anyone to do something for you or to give you something which should be sought only from Allah (ﷻ).

— to refuse to give something when you are asked for the sake of Allah. You should give it so long as it does not involve sin, because this is a form of respecting the rights of Allah (ﷻ).

— to curse time, because Allah (ﷻ) is the One Who is controlling it.

— to be superstitious, because this is a form of pessimism.

— to travel to the lands of the *Mushrikīn* (polytheists) or to live with the *Kuffār* (disbelievers) or take them as close friends instead of the believers, if any of these actions affects the Muslim's belief or faith.

— to cancel out good deeds by showing off, gaining good reputation or reminding others of one's favours in a hurtful fashion.

— to travel to any place for the purpose of worshipping there, except the three places — *al-Masjid al-Haram* (the Ka'bah in Makkah), the Mosque of the Prophet (ﷺ) (in Madeenah) and *al-Masjid al-Aqṣā* (Aqṣā mosque in Jerusalem). It is also forbidden to erect structures over graves and take them as places of worship.

— to curse the *Ṣaḥābah* (Prophet's Companions).

— to argue about the Qur'an with no knowledge.

All these matters are prohibited.

## **Tahārah** (Cleanliness and purity)

It is forbidden:

- to urinate into stagnant water.
- to answer the call of nature at the side of the road or in places where people seek shade or places from which they draw water.
- to face the *Qiblah* or sit with one's back towards it when urinating or defecating (although some scholars make an exception in the case of toilet facilities inside a building).
- to clean oneself with one's right hand after urinating or defecating.
- to wipe oneself with one's right hand.
- to use bones to clean oneself, because these are the food of our brothers among the Jinn.
- to clean oneself with dung because it is the food of their animals.
- to hold one's penis with his right hand when passing water.
- to give the greeting of *Salām* to one who is answering the call of nature.

— to put one's hand into any vessel before washing after getting up from bed.

## **Ṣalāh** (Prayer)

It is forbidden:

— to perform *Nafl* (supererogatory) prayers when the sun is rising, when it is at its zenith, or when it is setting, because it rises and sets between the horns of the *Shayṭān* (Satan), and because the sun-worshipping *Kuffār* prostrate to it when they see it.

- to pray after *Fajr* (dawn) until after the sun has risen.
- to pray after *'Aṣr* (afternoon) until the sun has set.

[These prohibitions apply to *Nafl* prayers offered for no specific reason; if they are said for any specific reason, such as *Tahīyyat al-Masjid* (greeting the mosque by two *rak'ahs* i.e., prayer units), there is nothing wrong.]

- to make houses like graveyards by not praying *Nafl* prayers in them.
- to follow a *Farḍ* (obligatory) prayer with a *Nafl* prayer without speaking in between [by making *Dhikr* (remembrance) or otherwise], or by going out then coming back.
- to pray anything but the two Sunnah *rak'ahs* of *Fajr* after the *Adhān* (call) for *Fajr* prayer.



## Matters pertaining to women

### It is forbidden for a woman:

- to display her beauty except to her husband and *Maḥrams* (close relatives she is forbidden to marry).
- to make a wanton display of herself (*Tabarruj*).
- to utter slander, intentionally forging falsehood (i.e., by making illegal children belong to her husband).
- to treat a mother unfairly on account of her child, or to treat a father unfairly on account of his child.
- to separate a mother and child.
- to go to extremes in circumcising women (e.g., cutting the clitoris).
- to travel alone without a *Maḥram*.
- to shake hands with a non-*Maḥram* man.
- to wear perfume when she wants to go out or pass by men.
- to be alone with a non-*Maḥram* man.

### It is forbidden for a man:

- to be alone with a non-*Maḥram* woman.
- to shake hands with a non-*Maḥram* woman.

— to be a *Dayyūth* (pimp — a weak man who has no self-respect and does not care if his womenfolk go with other men or misbehave).

— to look at a non-*Maḥram* woman, except by chance as it is forbidden to follow glances.

## Matters of meat and food

### It is forbidden:

- to eat any kind of meat of a killed (not Islamically slaughtered) animal, whether it died by drowning, strangulation, electric shock, falling from a high place, fighting with another animal in the herd or was killed by a wild animal, unless one is able to slaughter it properly before it dies.
- to eat blood, pork, anything that has been slaughtered in the name of anything other than Allah, anything that was sacrificed to idols, or anything that was slaughtered without having the name of Allah mentioned over it deliberately.
- to eat the meat or drink the milk of any animal that feeds on dirt and filth.
- to eat the meat of any carnivore that has fangs or any bird that has talons.